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**CLAIMS**

The embodiments in which an exclusive property or privilege is claimed are defined as follows:

5                   1. A basement wall water protection system characterized by:  
at least one water impermeable flexible member having a short leg section  
that is abutable against an upper portion of basement wall and a long leg  
section extending substantially away from said basement wall a distance at  
least as great as the tangent of 15° times the height of the basement wall  
10 below the water impermeable flexible member.

2. A basement wall water protection system as defined in claim  
1 further characterized by:  
said water impermeable flexible member having a first side edge  
15 and a second complementary side edge such that a first side edge of one  
water impermeable flexible member can snap fit into a second side edge of  
a second water impermeable flexible member to form a watertight junction.

3. A basement wall water protection system as defined in claim  
20 1 further characterized by:  
said water impermeable flexible member being made from a  
polyethylene plastic material.

4. A basement wall water protection system characterized by:  
25 a plurality of semi-flexible water impermeable overlapping plate  
members;

each plate member having a short leg section that is abutable  
against an upper portion of a basement wall and a long leg section  
extending substantially away from said basement wall a distance sufficient  
30 to keep water away as water seeps downward through the ground toward  
the basement wall at an angle;

each of said plate members having a first side edge and a  
second complementary side edge such that a first side edge of one plate  
member can join with said second side edge of a second plate member to

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form a watertight joint; and

at least one plate member having a short leg section that is abutable against an upper portion of basement wall and a long leg section extending substantially away from said basement wall a distance at least as great as the tangent of  $15^\circ$  times the height of the basement wall below the plate member.

5. A basement wall water protection system as defined in claim 4 further characterized by:

10 said short leg being placed below ground level and free to move against said basement wall and held against said wall solely by ground pressure.

6. A basement wall water protection system as defined in claim 5 further characterized by:

each of said plate members being made from polyethylene.

7. A basement wall water protection system as defined in claim 6 further characterized by:

20 each of said plate members being positionable about 16 inches below ground level with the short leg member abutable against said basement wall.

8. A basement wall water protection system as defined in claim 5 further characterized by:

corner members positioned at a corner of two basement walls and overlapping respective plate members abutting said respective basement walls.

9. A basement wall water protection system as defined in claim 5 further characterized by:

30 said long leg extending away from said basement wall at approximately a  $5^\circ$  downward slope away from said basement wall.

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10. A method of protecting a basement wall from water characterized by:

digging ground to form a trench on the exterior side of the basement wall with said trench being wide enough to receive a water  
5 impermeable semi-flexible member;

placing overlapping water impermeable semi-flexible members in the trench with a short leg of each respective member abutting against the basement wall and having a long leg extending substantially away from the basement wall; and

10 backfilling the trench with soil above the water impermeable members.

11. A method of protecting a basement wall from water as defined in claim 10 further characterized by:

15 shaping the bottom of the trench to decline at a 5° slope away from the basement wall and extending horizontally in a direction parallel to the basement wall.

12. A method of protecting a basement wall from water as defined in claim 11 further characterized by:

interlocking adjacent water impermeable semi-flexible members to each other at the edges thereof.

13. A method of protecting an existing basement wall from water as defined in claim 12 further characterized by:

25 planting plants in the backfilled soil above the water impermeable semi-flexible members to use water retained above the water impermeable semi-flexible members.

30 14. A basement wall water protection system characterized by:

a plurality of water impermeable semi-flexible plate members;

each plate member having an upper leg section that is abutable against an upper portion of a basement wall and a lower leg section extending substantially away from said basement wall a distance sufficient

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to keep water away as water seeps downward through the ground toward the basement wall at an angle; and

each of said plate member having a first side edge and a second complementary side edge such that a first side edge of one impermeable member can be connected with said second side edge of a second plate member to form a watertight joint.

15. A basement wall protection system as defined in claim 14 further characterized by:

10       said joint includes said first and second edges of two adjacent plate members is proximate to each other to form a seam, said two plates each having undercut grooves in proximity to each edge thereof and running parallel thereto; and

15       a first connector member having complementary undercut ribs slidably connected to said grooves to interlock the connector member with both impermeable plate members to cover said seam.

16. A basement wall protection system as defined in claim 15 further characterized by:

20       said first connector connecting said lower leg section;

      a second separate connector having depending undercut ribs being slidably receivable in the grooves in the respective upper leg sections; and

25       one of said first and second connectors having a ribless section that is bendable over a radial section of said plate members to cover said seam at said radial section.

17. A basement wall protection system as defined in claim 14 further characterized by:

30       at least one plate member having its upper leg section being short and being abutable against an upper portion of basement wall and its lower leg section being long and extending substantially away from said basement wall a distance at least as great as the tangent of 15° times the height of the basement wall below the impermeable plate member.

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18. A basement wall water protection system as defined in claim 16 further characterized by:

each of said plate members and said first and second connector  
5 being made from polyethylene.

19. A basement wall water protection system characterized by:

a plurality of semi-flexible water impermeable plate members;

each plate member having an upper leg section that is abutable  
10 against an upper portion of a basement wall and a lower leg section  
extending substantially away from said basement wall a distance sufficient  
to keep water away as water seeps downward through the ground toward  
the basement wall at an angle; and

each plate member having a first side edge and a second  
15 complementary side edge such that a first side edge of one impermeable  
member can be connected with said second side edge of a second plate  
member.

20. A basement wall water protection system as defined in claim  
20 4 further characterized by:

said upper leg being placed below ground level and free to move  
against said basement wall and held against said wall solely by ground  
pressure.